

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01523 080535Z
ACTION ARA-14

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, CS
SUBJECT: LOCAL ARCHITECT'S SUIT AGAINST VESCO

1. THE CASE OF IOS SECURITIES FRAUD BROUGHT BY LOCAL ARCHITECT CARLOS RECHNITZER AGAINST VESCO HAS TAKEN A CURIOUS TWIST. ON APRIL 5 IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE COSTA RICAN CIVIL REGISTRY DECIDED THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT THE COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP OF RECHNITZER HAS BEEN ANNULLED. THE CIVIL REGISTRY APPARENTLY REVIEWED STATUS OF RECHNITZER CITIZENSHIP AT REQUEST OF VESCO LAWYER JOSE MARIA PLA. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS, THE BASIS OF THE CIVIL REGISTRY'S DETERMINATION WAS A 1944 DECREE OF THE COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH ANNULLED THE CIVIL REGISTRY DECISION OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR GRANTING RECHNITZER COSTA RICAN CITIZENSHIP. (THE 1944 FOREIGN MINISTRY DECREE SAYS THAT RECHNITZER STATED FALSELY ON HIS CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION THAT HE HAD BEEN BORN IN NICARAGUA RATHER THAN IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.)

2. RECHNITZER CLAIMS NEVER TO HAVE HEARD OF THE 1944 FOREIGN MINISTRY DECISION. HE HAS STATED PUBLICLY THAT HE HAS BEEN A BONAFIDE NATURALIZED COSTA RICAN CITIZEN SINCE 1943 AND THAT HE WILL APPEAL THIS DECISION TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL.

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3. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS, IF RECHNITZER IS NOT JUDGED TO BE A COSTA RICAN CITIZEN, HIS CASE AGAINST VESCO WILL HAVE TO BE DROPPED. REASON: UNDER COSTA RICACA LAW, FRAUD COMMITTED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY IS ONLY ACTIONABLE IN COSTA RICAN COURTS IF THE VICTIM IS A COSTA RICAN CITIZEN.

4. EMBASSY PREPARING ANALYSIS OF SCENARIOS
THAT MAY POSSIBLY ENSUE FROM THIS LATEST INTRIGUING
DEVELOPMENT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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